

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 523

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Gatlin Brothers upon their forty-fifth anniversary as members of the Grand Ole Opry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those gifted artists who have experienced great success in the world of country music; and

WHEREAS, the Gatlin Brothers, a Grammy Award-winning trio, will celebrate their forty-fifth anniversary as members of the Grand Ole Opry on December 25, 2021; and

WHEREAS, hailing from Texas, Larry, Steve, and Rudy Gatlin began singing together at a very early age, performing gospel music for anyone who would listen, and eventually recorded four Gospel records; and

WHEREAS, while auditioning for the legendary Imperials, Larry Gatlin met Country Music Hall of Fame member Dottie West, who helped launch his songwriting career and sent him a plane ticket to Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in Nashville, Larry Gatlin met Kris Kristofferson, who championed his talent as a singer and songwriter; he was eventually signed to Monument Records by Fred Foster and recorded his first album, *The Pilgrim*, for which Johnny Cash wrote the liner notes; and

WHEREAS, after moving to Nashville in 1975 to sing backup for Tammy Wynette, brothers Steve and Rudy joined Larry to form Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers and thus launched their storybook career; and

WHEREAS, among the Gatlin Brothers' legendary hits are such classic country songs as "Broken Lady," "All the Gold in California," "Houston," "I Don't Wanna Cry," "I Just Wish You Were Someone to Love," "Statues Without Hearts," "Love Is Just A Game," and "Night Time Magic"; and

WHEREAS, the Gatlin Brothers have compiled seven No. 1 singles, thirty-two Top 40 records, twenty-two studio albums, and five BMI Million-Air Awards in addition to winning a Grammy Award for Best Country Song; three ACM Awards for Single of the Year, Album of the Year, and Male Vocalist of the Year; and five nominations for CMA Vocal Group of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Larry Gatlin ranks fourth among songwriters for most self-penned Top 40 *Billboard* hits, and his songs having been recorded by such music icons as Elvis Presley, Barbara Streisand, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, Glen Campbell, Kris Kristofferson, Sir Tom Jones, Dottie West, Charlie Rich, and Johnny Mathis; and

WHEREAS, it is the dream of every country music artist to be a member of the Grand Ole Opry and perform on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry House, and it is most fitting that the Gatlin Brothers be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize the Gatlin Brothers upon their forty-fifth anniversary as members of the Grand Ole Opry, commend their illustrious career in country music, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.